

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AGR-20 SWF-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-20

TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 STR-08 CIEP-03 DRC-01 /175 W

----- 115457

R 250618Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2888

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9891

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, IN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET FOODGRAIN ASSISTANCE

1. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD CHARGE THAT THERE ARE NO CURRENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE INDIANS ON FOODGRAIN ASSISTANCE. THE GOI HAD SPOKEN TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY A FEW MONTHS EARLIER BUT AT THAT TIME THE SOVIETS HAD REPLIED THAT THEY COULD NOT DISCUSS THE SUBJECT UNTIL THEIR OWN CROP PROSPECTS WERE CLEAR. SOVIET OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT WHILE THE SOVIET CROP PROSPECT WAS NOW FAIRLY CLEAR THE GOI HAD NOT RAISED THE SUBJECT AGAIN. THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH GRAIN ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE WAS A DELICATE SUBJECT BUT THE SOVIET OFFICIAL DID NOT EXPECT THE ISSUE TO COME UP UNTIL SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER.

2. IN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION, IN CONVERSATION WITH ECON COUNSELOR, MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIAL WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN TO MOSCOW, HOWEVER, INDICATED INDIANS HAD QUERIED SOVIETS IN JUNE ABOUT ADDITIONAL WHEAT, BUT WERE TOLD SOVIETS WERE UNWILLING TO MAKE ANY COMMIT-
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MENTS AT THAT TIME. HE INDICATED THERE WERE NO CURRENT

DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY AND THAT PERSONALLY HE WAS DOUBTFUL THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD ACTUALLY AGAIN OFFER ANY FORM OF GRAIN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA.

3. COMMENT: THE SOVIET EXPECTATION OF NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER OF OCTOBER MAY REFLECT THE REALIZATION THAT INDIAN CROP PROSPECTS WILL NOT BE TOTALLY CLEAR TILL THEN BUT MAY ALSO REFLECT SOVIET UNCERTAINTY ON INDO-US RELATIONS AND A DESIRE TO STALL UNTIL THIS TREND IS CLEAR.

4. DESPITE ABOVE, UNCONFIRMED RUMORS PERSIST THAT PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SOVIET WHEAT IS UNDER MORE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION.
KREISBERG

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Message Attributes

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